

C. Remarks

Independent claim 8 is the sole claim presented for consideration. This claim has been amended to further clarify the invention. Support for this amendment may be found, *inter alia*, in original claim 9. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious from U.S. Patent No. 6,713,201 B2 (Bullock) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0096144 A1 (Dunstan). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing the merits of the rejection, Applicants would like to briefly discuss the features of the present invention as now claimed. That invention relates to a fuel supply system for fuel cells, with the system comprising a fuel cell that generates power using fuel and oxygen and discharges water produced as a result of power generation, and a fuel supply apparatus for supplying fuel to the fuel cell. The fuel cell comprises a fuel cell supply unit into which fuel is supplied and a water discharging unit for discharging water, wherein access to the fuel supply unit and the water discharging unit is provided at the same face of the fuel cell. The fuel supply apparatus includes a mounting unit for mounting the fuel cell, a fuel supply unit for supplying fuel to the mounted fuel cell, and a water-suctioning unit for suctioning water produced inside the fuel cell. The fuel cell supply apparatus also includes a detector for detecting the presence of the fuel cell.

Bullock is directed to a replaceable fuel cell for use in a portable device. As acknowledged by the Examiner, Bullock does not disclose or suggest an evaporator for

evaporating water suctioned by the bi-product reservoir. The Examiner has now cited Dunstan for a teaching of an evaporator. However, even assumed, *arguendo*, that Dunstan contains the alleged teaching, neither Bullock nor Dunstan discloses or suggests a detector for detecting the presence of the fuel cell as recited in claim 8.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Bullock, whether considered alone or in combination with Dunstan, fails to render the presently claimed invention unpatentable.

Wherefore, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and passage of the subject application to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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